

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00
L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /139 W
-----102659 200945Z /20

R 200925Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6172
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02598

ROME FOR FODAG

USEEC, USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON VEGETABLE OILS AND
OILSEEDS

1. BY THE END OF THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSION AND
DRAFTING OF COMMUNIQUE, IT APPEARED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING WERE WILLING TO FORECLOSE
FURTHER ACTION BY UNCTAD, REJECT THE PROPOSAL ON PROMOTION
OF PURCHASES AND ACCEDE TO ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING WITH
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THE PRESUMPTION IT WOULD NEVER RECONVENE. THIRD DAY'S
DRAFTING SESSION WAS DOMINATED BY PRODUCER SPOKESMAN BRITO
OF BRAZIL, WHO HAD DRAFTED PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE AND GUIDED
IT THROUGH SESSION WITH DISCREET SUPPORT FROM UK AND US.
HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF LAST-DAY INTERVENTIONS BY ACTIVIST
PERMREPS FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN AND INDONESIA, WITH BEHIND-
THE-SCENES PRODDING BY SECRETARIAT, OUTCOME OF SUBJECT

MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE, WITH ONLY FIRM DECISION A RECOMMENDATION TO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES (IPC) TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING.

2. ONLY ACTIVE PROPONENTS OF PURCHASES PROPOSALS IN FIRST TWO DAYS' DEBATE WERE INDIA AND PAKISTAN (THOUGH MALAYSIA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FURTHER STUDY IN PRODUCERS' GROUP, THE ISSUE WAS NOT PRESSED). WHEN MALAYSIANS WITHDREW SUPPORT, INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE ACQUIESCED TO TEXT CLEARLY EXCLUDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN DRAFTING GROUP WAS OVERRULED BY HIS PERMREP THE NEXT DAY. PRODUCERS GROUP STOOD SOLIDLY AGAINST COMPREHENSIVE BUFFER STOCK OR INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED STOCKING SYSTEM, AND ONLY EC SUGGESTED MILDLY THAT COORDINATED STOCKING OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. COMMUNIQUE REPORT OF THE MEETING THEREFORE CONTAINS PRESUMPTION THAT STOCKING POLICIES SHOULD BE NATIONAL IN CHARACTER AND THAT PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTION OF PURCHASES FROM EXPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE DROPPED.

3. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF QUALIFICATIONS IT IS SUBJECT TO ALMOST ANY INTERPRETATION. REPORT STATES SUBSEQUENT MEETING SHOULD "EXAMINE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERATION IN THE PRESENT MEETING'S REPORT AND THOSE PENDING FROM THE REPORT OF ITS FIRST MEETING;" THIS PROVIDES VIRTUAL CARTE BLANCHE TO UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE DOCUMENTATION FOR THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON SUBJECTS AS IT CHOOSES.

4. THE EC COMMISSION PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE, OFTEN SUPPORTING MOVES TO KEEP MOST SUBJECTS OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS CONTRADICTING STATEMENTS BY CONSUMER SPOKESMAN FORD OF UK. US ROLE IN MEETING WAS AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE, WITH INTERVENTIONS IN GENERAL RESTRICTED TO SUPPORT OF POSITIONS ALREADY EXPRESSED BY OTHERS, PARTICULARLY BRAZIL, UK AND PRODUCERS AS A GROUP. US BECAME ISOLATED ONLY ON QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CONVENE ANOTHER MEETING, AT WHICH TIME DELEGATE CEASED RESISTANCE. UPON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT, UNITED STATES DELEGATE MADE OFF-THE-RECORD OBSERVATION THAT WHILE RELUCTANTLY ACCEDING TO RECOMMENDATION TO REQUEST ANOTHER MEETING, US DECISION TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE BASED ON EXAMINATION OF THE DOCUMENTATION PREPARED FOR IT, INCLUDING THE PRACTICALITY AND APPLICABILITY TO THE IPC OF ANY PROPOSALS CONTAINED THEREIN.

5. COMMENT: WHILE HAVING NO STRONG VIEWS ON PARTICULAR COURSES OF ACTION FOR UNCTAD, BOTH SECRETARIAT AND LEADING PERMREPS CLEARLY WANT TO KEEP THE DOOR WIDE OPEN ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS AS A COMMODITY UNDER THE IPC. WHILE SECRETARIAT HAS STATED IN PRIVATE THAT LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PURCHASES SCHEME BY US WOULD DOOM IT, SECRETARIAT, WITH SUPPORT FROM INDIA, MAY STILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP ISSUE ALIVE. FAILURE OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE LONG HISTORY OF FAO WORK ON VEGETABLE OILS AND LACK OF POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS ON REASONABLE FUTURE ACTIONS

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ROME FOR FODAG

USEEC, USOECD

UNDER IPC GIVE RISE TO FURTHER DOUBTS ABOUT UTILITY OF
CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IN UNCTAD. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, VEGETABLE OILS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA02598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780077-0486
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdpx.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f1461d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3542829
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f1461d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014